

Spring 2024



Learn to Succeed



An introduction from the Principal...

Dear All,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Penwortham Priory Academy 'Priory Post'.

As ever, this edition brings together in one place, all the key stories from this term as they appeared in our weekly newsletters, highlighting the wide-ranging opportunities and activities all our pupils have to contribute to our daily mission:

To uphold our Priory standard – ensuring the highest expectations of all, from all, so that all pupils Learn to Succeed and leave Priory, equipped with the right skills and attitudes to help them succeed in life, contribute positively to society, and go on to further education, employment, or training.

Here at Priory, we pride ourselves on having a school where, first and foremost, pupils feel safe and happy. *Their pastoral care.*

When we have pupils, who feel safe and happy in school, we can focus on providing each with a varied and rich curriculum for them to gain good individual results as a stepping-stone into their futures. *Their academic care.*

Whilst all the time, gaining opportunities, from reliable adults, on how to become good citizens of the future. *Their 'Learning for Life'.*

In other words, a school where the attention we give to the pastoral care of our pupils is just as important as the attention we give to their academic progress and to the development of those skills we know our pupils are going to need to be successful in their lives beyond Priory – their 'Learning for Life'.

This edition then, once again highlights the wide-ranging learning activities that our pupils have been undertaking, to maximise their chances to achieve, not only in the time they are with us here in school, but in their life beyond Priory too.

A big thank you then to all the staff, pupils, parents and members of our local community for their dedication, commitment and hard work in ensuring that all our pupils leave Priory with not only excellent results, but with these rich and meaningful experiences that are guaranteed to help them in what are sure to be their exciting and bright futures.

We hope you enjoy reading our key stories from this term at Priory, a great school where every pupil *'Learns to Succeed'.*



Mr Matt Eastham, Principal
Penwortham Priory Academy

Welcome back: New Year - New Term

We hope you've all had an enjoyable break which seems such a distant memory now. In the full school assembly last Monday morning, Mr Eastham set out the key points as we go into the new term;

The Priory Standard - The highest expectations of all, from all, so our pupils leave Priory with the skills and attitudes to help them succeed in life.

Lessons are for Learning - Pupils must work hard and will be challenged to be the best that they can be. Mr Eastham spoke about the importance of this term for Year 9, choosing their Options, and Year 11, how we all must play a part in supporting them during their last months with us.

Priory Plus - How our pupils can set themselves apart by getting involved with extra curricular activities to enhance their personal development.

And finally, a reminder that phones must be off and out of sight. Mr Eastham also reminded pupils to think about making the right choices and taking the right steps to enable them to learn to succeed.



Food Bank Collection Thank you!



Again, there was another impressive amount of donations from staff and pupils in the run up to Christmas for Penwortham Food Bank.

Thank you to all the Priory families that donated items of food. This made a big difference to disadvantaged families over the Christmas period. A particular well done to **Douglas** House who collected the most donations, closely followed by **Hodder**.

We would also like to thank Year 10 Oliver G and Oliver E's football team, Lostock Hall Junior Football Club U15s, who raised £20 for the food bank which was added to the collection.

We are continuing to collect donations throughout the new term. Please bring your donations to the Nucleus and place them in your House basket.

If parents would prefer to donate money, rather than food products, they can put cash in an envelope instead which can then be handed in at reception or we now have an option on SCOPay to make a voluntary £5 donation.

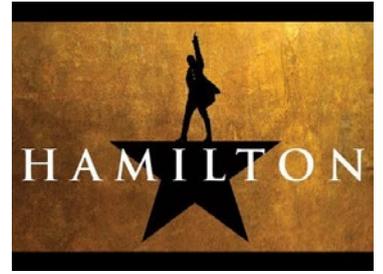
Mrs Massey
House Leader





'Hamilton the Musical' Trip

"I am not throwing away my shot."



We certainly didn't and when we heard Hamilton was in Manchester we made sure we got tickets.

Hamilton is something we study in Key Stage 4 Performing Arts but is also loved by many other students. This revolutionary musical is well known for its Rap and Hip Hop which means it is accessible for young people.

Lead Teacher of Drama, Miss Howell, said, "Our students were so excited to see this and the buzz was electric as we were all going to be *"In the room where it happens!"*"

The biographical musical, which pupils saw at the Palace Theatre, covers the life of American Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. It's based on Ron Chernow's biography and features a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and show tunes. It tells the story of Hamilton's involvement in the American Revolution, his relationship with George Washington, and his role in shaping the political history of the early United States.



Miss Howell continued, "I want to thank all the staff that helped out and made the trip happen."

"The biggest thanks needs to go to our students, what amazing students we have. They all understood theatre etiquette and this was noticed by members of the public, as they commented on how well behaved they all were. So, the biggest thanks goes to them for their impeccable behaviour and an enjoyable evening."



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Qualify As Peer Mentors



The first cohort of Year 10 pupils have undertaken their ASDAN short course to qualify as Peer Mentors.

Pupils attended two full day training sessions in school with an external trainer where they were given an introduction to mentoring and 'buddying' younger ones.

Peer mentoring can support children and young people by:

- Enhancing social competence,
- Building security within the setting and wider community by realising their worth as social beings,
- Improving attendance and educational attainment whilst
- Developing friendship skills in a positive environment.



Each learner participated in a number of activities across five challenges to gain a 10 hours accredited ASDAN certificate. They also bagged themselves a £25 'Love 2 Shop' voucher!

Ms Smith, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, said, "It is great to see that we have kind pupils who want to give up their own time to support younger pupils in school. In the New Year, we will have a Peer Mentor Station where pupils will be able to see a Peer Mentor to ask for advice or support."

Year 10 Umar said, "During the sessions we developed our communications and team working skills. We chatted about scenarios that could happen and how we would deal with them. I am looking forward to helping pupils in their difficult times or whatever they need help with. I would recommend this course to any other pupils in my year group, as it has given me motivation and confidence. Thank you to Mei from We Are With You for teaching us."

ASDAN offers nationally recognised qualifications based around the development of personal, social and employability skills, making the course the perfect addition to a pupil's college application or CV.

The next cohort will begin their training in January. Pupils wishing to join further courses should see Ms Smith, or contact her via Teams Chat.

Well done to Year 10 pupils: Christopher C, Emily P, Umar H, Jake L, Oliver E.

*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for Personal Development*

Year 7 Pupils Line Up Their Models To Impress Geography Teachers



Pupils were praised as ‘extremely creative’ as the annual Geography Contours Competition enjoyed record entries!

Led by Geography teachers Mrs Kursitis, Mr Momoniat and Mr Metcalfe, it was a competition run across all classes in Year 7 as an addition to lessons.

Mr Momoniat said: “Pupils had two months to make a 3D contour model and include the criteria of key, scale and the right colours for the different levels.

“Pupils used cardboard and paint but the winner, Arjuna, used air dried clay and made a waterfall on his design.

“Some pupils used a 3D printer while one pupil used material from Plaster of Paris, usually used in casts for broken bones.

“It was a competition at home and many pupils went above and beyond. They were extremely creative and we had the biggest ever submission this year which is superb.

“It shows their enthusiasm for Geography, something we obviously encourage. Year 7 pupils have already shown a great passion for the subject.”



Mrs Kursitis said: “There were some wonderful entries, they really did think outside the box and it was hard to judge the winners.”

Arjuna was the winner and said: “It was my mum’s idea to use air dried clay and it took us about an hour to make. I found it quite easy but I do enjoy geography. My mum was very shocked when I told her I had won. We were pleased with the outcome.”

Sophia said: “I made my mountain in pieces and put a flag in it. I used cardboard and it took me around an hour. I love geography so I was pleased to be a prize winner.”

Imogen said: “I really enjoyed doing this, Mr Mo is my Geography teacher and is very enthusiastic.”

Class Winners

7E1: Jess H, Theo L, James A

7E2: Jacob V-Z, Freya Clark, Eli P

7E3: Marshall T, Dexter H, Salahuddeen I

7W1: Lola B, Thomas A, Lily W

7W2: Joel O/Joe W, Ella R, Joel W

Overall: Arjuna P, Imogen C, Sophia L.



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Year 8 Gymnast's Chance to Qualify For National Championships



Year 8 Millie has battled back from a double ankle break to win a gold medal in the English Championships and qualify for a chance to compete at the National Championships.

Millie, who says her favourite discipline is bars, has been involved with gymnastics for eight years.

"I think I just wanted to try it and see if I liked it and I did," she said.

"I train 14-and-a-half hours a week with the City of Preston Gymnastics Club – which is four days a week so I am dedicated."

Millie has competed in Malta, where she came third on the vault and third overall as a team, and the Isle of Man, where she won overall, but suffered a setback earlier this year.

"I broke my ankle both sides when I fell off the bars. I was out for around six months."

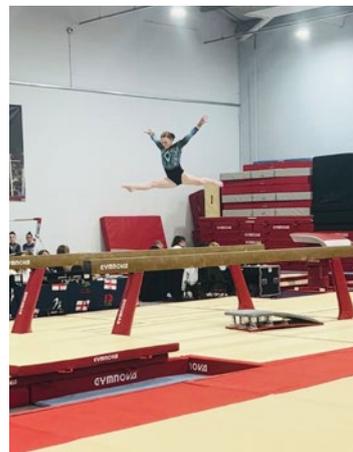
She admitted it was frustrating not being able to train but she kept in 'good condition'.



She is back in full training now and last month took part in the Moss English Gymnastics Championships winning gold in her category and coming fourth overall. She competed at a higher level this year too, moving up from Bronze to Silver Intermediate.

"My next big event is the North West Prelims in March at Wigan, which are qualifiers for the National Finals. It's a chance to represent the North West team so it's one of my biggest events so far."

Millie also enjoys netball and football.



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Year 11 Basketball Slam Dunk the Competition



REPORT BY MR GEE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND PE TEACHER

Priory's Year 11 basketball team produced their strongest performance of the season running out 59-6 winners against Walton Le Dale High School in the U16 Lancashire School Basketball Cup.

A strong first quarter saw Priory take a 19-0 lead with Sales scoring frequently supported by the ever-willing runner, McGovern.

Priory's dominance continued throughout the game which Priory lead 28-0 at the end of the second quarter, 48-2 by the end of the third quarter and eventually ran out 59-6 winners.

All ten players scored at least two points in the game with Waterhouse scoring his first points for the school team.



Team: Sales (24 points), Collinson (2 points), Matthews (8 points), Coleman (2 points), McGovern (10 points), Ogdin (2 points), Dave (4 points), Andre Manuel (5 points), Waterhouse (2 points)

Year 7 South Ribble Champions

Congratulations to the Year 7 Football team after winning the Year 7 South Ribble 5-a-side Tournament last Tuesday evening.

Priory topped the group stage against Lostock Hall, Walton-le-Dale and Wellfield with 2-1, 3-1 and 7-1 wins respectively. This put them through to the semi-finals to face Leyland St Mary's.

Despite going a goal down, the team showed great resilience and came out 3-1 victors. This meant playing the hosts, All Hallows, in the final.

The game was very even throughout, with some great long range strikes from both teams. There was nothing to split the teams, even after extra time with the score 4-4. Down to three penalties each, Priory triumphed as Birley made two good stops meaning a 2-1 win on penalties.

Head of PE & Sport, Mr Bullock said, "Well done lads, some fantastic individual and team performances throughout the competition".



Year 8 and 9 Girls Football 7-a-Side Competition

SPORTS REPORT

Tuesday, 28 November saw the last of the girls' 7-a-side tournaments held at Leyland St Mary's.

The team began a very frosty football fight against their South Ribble competitors. We didn't get off to the best of starts against Penwortham Girls High School, however we gradually began to get into our stride after that, with less goals conceded thanks to goalkeeper Jess J.

As each game passed by, the girls kept fighting and working together as a team with some great defensive work from Georgia and Kelsey stopping the attack from their opponents.

The attempts from our attack just kept on coming, with Lainie and Millie narrowly missing, until Lexi scored our first goal!



Team Coach and PE Teacher, Miss Beesley, said, "In the end, the tournament just wasn't meant to be for Priory, finishing in 7th position overall. However, thank you girls for continuing to be determined and carry on in the freezing conditions!"

Well done team :Jess J, Georgia R, Kelsey-Rae D, Sienna M, Lainie W-S, Millie D, Harriet H, Keira H, Emily A, Lexi S.

Year 8 Success in 7-a-Side Competition

Priory was proud to host the South Ribble Schools 7-a-side B team competition for Year 8 footballers on Tuesday afternoon.

Coaches Mr Raynor and Mr Sneddon selected a number of players making their debuts for the school and the lads responded with excellent performances. As one of six teams in the tournament, Priory's five matches produced 2 wins, 2 draws and 1 defeat.

These results led to a credible third place finish for the team.

Mr Raynor said, "We were delighted with the way that each of the lads stepped up and played their part. To only concede one goal in 5 games was a great team effort."

Well done: Merdi A-M, George W, Elliott S, Charlie T, Alfred A, Callum M, Zishan H, Alfie, Shivam Y.



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Design Competition Marks The Page For Key Stage 9 Pupils

Year 9 Kacper will see his imaginative design transformed into Priory's 2024 bookmark for all Key Stage 3 pupils and the new pupils coming to Priory in September.

The English department hold the competition every year for pupils to design a bookmark.

Assistant Head of English, Miss Hearn, said this year's competition was important as the winning bookmark was going to be produced on a bigger scale than previously.

"We know Priory has done the bookmark competition in the past and we have revived it on a bigger scale.

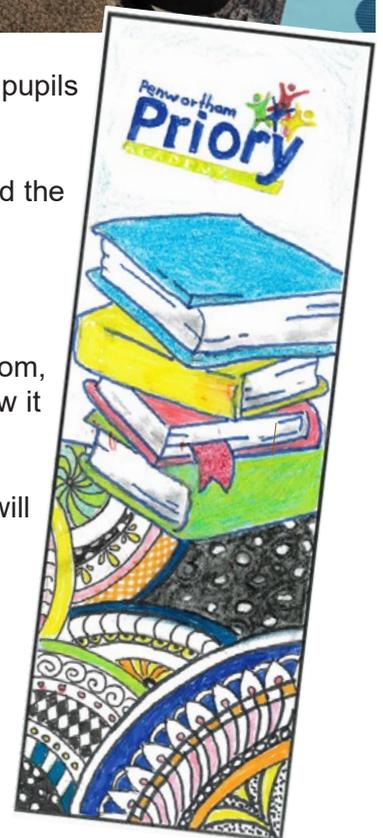
"Not only will the winning design be printed and given out to Key Stage 3 pupils, it will be available in the library to pick up and will also be given to new pupils starting next September.

"Mr Eastham chose Kacper's design because it was beautifully drawn but also had the Priory logo on it so it was the perfect bookmark for Priory.

"It was a tough selection as we had around 150 entries."

Kacper said: "I like to draw so I just used my imagination. I did mosaics at the bottom, books in the middle then copied the Priory logo for the top. I was pleased with how it worked out.

"Drawing is just a hobby although I do enjoy Art but I was surprised I had won. I will be proud when I see them."



Miss Hearn
Assistant Head of English

When The Snow Came To Priory

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

It's not often these days that snow drifts in to Penwortham but that's what happened on Tuesday morning. A blanket of snow makes everything seem so magical and bright, and we certainly made the most of it whilst it lasted.

Ms Smith's impromptu snowman building competition, set for lunchtime, was swiftly brought forward to break as the ice was already melting fast however Year 8's Junior Y managed to gather enough for this tiny figure. The primary schools' 'Breakfast Club in the Hex had more success though, completing their snowmen with high-vis jacket and pom-poms for buttons. Looks like the little ones had lots of fun and they definitely gave us a smile.

Meanwhile, Mr Bullock, who never needs an excuse to get the drone out of its box, managed to take some

fantastic photos of Penwortham Priory from above. These were not quite as clear quality as they could be due to the snow which was still coming down!



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Full STEAM Ahead for Careers Event



In January we welcomed visitors who represented the vast choice of careers in Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths for our STEAM careers event.

Held in the Sports Hall, classes from all year groups attended to chat with employers, colleges and universities with the aim to inspire and educate pupils about careers in the STEAM sectors.

It was great to have so many former Priory pupils return to support the event too. Thank you to them and the many other local and national businesses, education and training providers that ventured through the snow to ensure our pupils had this valuable opportunity to explore their options for the world of work.

Event organiser and Science teacher Mrs Massey said, "We are passionate about ensuring our pupils are well informed about career options so they can make open minded choices about their future"



"I was really pleased that so many employers and education providers could attend to make this event so beneficial.



"The pupils were a credit to us, asking great questions, interacting with the activities and collating lots of information. Some were nervous about the prospect of talking to people they didn't know about careers but responded fantastically to the challenge."



Mrs Massey also thanked all our visitors for attending on Tuesday; we really do appreciate these organisations giving up time to inspire their next generation of employees.



Mrs Massey
Science Teacher and
House Leader

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Year 7 Archie Fights His Way To The Top



Year 7 Archie admits he is 'very competitive' which is good as he wants to take his Mixed Martial Arts career far!

Archie says he got into the sport after watching it on television, aged around seven.

"I asked my dad if I could go and we went to the North West Fight Academy in Preston.

"It was a bit of a shock at first as I thought I could just beat everybody but I have been training hard and I am getting better.

"I love it because it's fun, you get to exercise and I am very competitive.

"I train every day from 6-7pm and sometimes for extra hours. It does take a lot of dedication but I want to take it as far as I can."



Archie has had two fights so far – his first won by a submission in the second round with a mounted triangle and the second won by the same move in the first round.

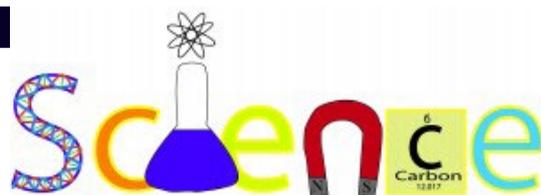
"I have got two trophies now which I am proud of. I am always nervous before a fight but I enjoy it once it starts and I win!"

Archie also enjoys football and badminton.



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Science Pupils Tested at University's Chemistry Taster Day



Last Wednesday four pupils from Years 9-11 were invited to take part in UCLan's 'Top of the Bench' chemistry event.

The day was arranged by Dr Anna Kirkham and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and was hosted by the School of Law & Policing at the University. Pupils took part in a range of fun interactive activities including, collecting fingerprints, how to examine footwear marks, and identifying bodily fluids on different forensic evidence types, and much more.

The team - Olivia, Niamh, Anna and Terela - successfully completed an investigation into substances found on a suspect using techniques such as, titrations and thin layer chromatography. They also used a range of forensic techniques to analyse evidence from a further crime scene.



Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, who accompanied the girls said, "The pupils really enjoyed these activities and gained a great deal of insight into some of the careers available with a Chemistry or Forensic Sciences degree.

"One thing they took away from the forensics was that their job was to process the evidence using science and not to have to come to their own conclusions as this

would be the job of the jury in a court of law."



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U13s Girls Cricket Tested at South Ribble Tournament

SPORTS REPORT

REPORT BY MISS BEESLEY, PE TEACHER

The U13s girls cricket team attended their first indoor tournament of the year last Tuesday.

Held at the South Ribble Tennis Centre, the girls team consisted of Year 7 and Year 8s who, to say it was their first time playing together officially as a team, did not let us down!

The tournament consisted of two leagues - Priory were up against Lostock Hall, All Hallows and Penwortham Girls.

We got off to a fantastic start with an excellent batting duo performance from Lainie W-S and Millie D whose batting skills enabled them to score enough points to both retire at 15. The batting continued with some great shots from Lily W and Maci H, resulting in 72 runs.



All Hallows were up next against Priory and, with the first game out of the way, the girls knew what they had to do. Our opening batters again retiring at 15, showing amazing teamwork and getting us off the a flying start. This was again backed up from Bella and Imogen who kept topping up the runs to gain an admirable 98 runs off 8 overs. On the bowling front, Ruth demonstrated a great technique challenging the opponent's batting side, also backed up by great fielding from Willow and Maci. We thought we had the win, but sadly All Hallows pipped us by 10 runs.

Last up were Penwortham Girls High School. Priory put up a great fight against the girls' school however their speedy bowlers showed it wasn't meant to be.



Priory came 4th overall, however did not disappoint; great teamwork, involvement and definite skills to develop - well done girls!

TEAM: Front row: Willow P, Lainie W-S, Millie D. Back row: Bella D, Ruth W, Maci H, Lilly W, Imogen C.

Music Department Receives Double Dose of Instrument Donations



Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor, says the addition of a double bass, donated to Priory, has and will continue to enhance his lessons.

The double bass and two guitars arrived via Learning Support Assistant, Mrs Simpson.

Mrs Simpson said: "While visiting my sister-in-law, Wendy Simpson, I was asked "Do you know anyone that would like a double bass?"

"I instantly thought of Mr Taylor and the music department so asked her to leave it with me.

"The double bass had belonged to my nephew who now lives in Hong Kong and no longer uses it.

"Mr Taylor seemed excited by the thought of a double bass in the department along with two guitars."

Mr Taylor said: "It's been brilliant, it's taller than most of the children and taller than me. It's a big old instrument and it's been a welcome addition to lessons.

"It's a fantastic visual tool for the children to see how sounds are made and produced. It plays the lowest possible notes and it's so big they can see how sounds are made and how the pitch is changed.

"It ties in with my Year 8s who are working on Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' and some versions have a double bass.

"It also ties in with my Year 9s and the link to classical music and early pop with the Blues, where the double bass is played which later became the bass electric guitar.

"It's also got the 'wow' factor. Classes come in and see it in a corner and want a go. It's in great condition and we don't want it just as a museum piece, we want it as a living, breathing part of lessons."



Mr Taylor
Lead Teacher of Music

Priory In The Community



Greencroft Valley Tree Planting Project

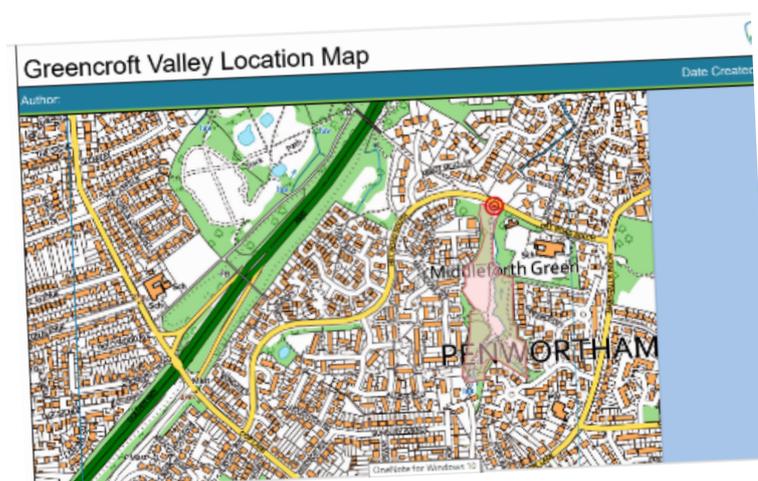
Before the Christmas break, a small group of Year 8 boys took on a tree planting project with a member of South Ribble Borough Council and a local community group.

Greencroft is a woodland area located just off Hill Road South in Penwortham. We were tasked with planting new trees within the woodland that will fill out the area, add a variety of trees and eventually replace older trees as they die out.

Mrs Massey, Science teacher and ECO Committee Leader, said, "The four boys got stuck in and really impressed the community group. During the two hours we were there we planted around 40 trees".

We look forward to going back in the future and looking at our work.

Well done boys: Alfie K, Harley F-N, Charlie T, Kenzie S.



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Christmas Codebreaking Competition Results



Congratulations to all the pupils who cracked the Christmas codebreaking competition.

The competition challenged pupils to figure out the Morse Code, test themselves with the Caesar and PigPen ciphers, and then create their own code breaker - and include the solution too!

Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri, has been testing herself with the pupils' coding conundrum creations and has awarded her three winners now they've been solved.



Well done to Nathan C for his fantastic codebreaking skills which enabled him to win first prize in the competition.

Mrs Qadri said, "Nathan created a 3D block with morse code imprinted on it which I printed using the 3D printer we have in school. But it wasn't just to be used as a stamp for morse code, he actually went a step further and encrypted the morse code too!"

She went on to say, "Nathan didn't make life easy for himself as he also had to design the block backwards so that it appeared correct when the stamp was printed onto paper."

Our winners each won £15, £10 and £5 Amazon vouchers respectively and all entrants will receive achievement points.

- 1st prize Nathan C (Year 11)
- 2nd prize Emma H (Year 10)
- 3rd prize Geetha D-R (Year 10)

Here's Nathan's Code - Can you solve it? (answer on next page)



Mrs Qadri
Head of ICT & Computing

Meet The Teacher: Mr Momoniat - Humanities



Priory's new Humanities teacher is affectionately known as 'Mr Mo' and has already won over the pupils!

Mr Momoniat primarily teaches Geography but can also teach History as well.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," said Mr Momoniat, who joined in September.

"I studied Geography at UCLan and did my PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University.

"I then taught at Moorlands in Clitheroe which is a small school and I wanted a bigger challenge so am excited to be at Priory.

"I want to make a big impact on more children and I feel like I can use all my skills here and make the subjects as fascinating for the pupils as I find them.

"I love Geography. Since I was a child, I have loved travelling and been lucky enough to travel all over the world, learning about different cultures and climates."

Outside of Priory, 'Mr Mo' can be found being active.

"I love all sport, I am a massive sports fan. I play football in a league, badminton, table tennis, cricket and I will



Translate from morse code to get: GPOHLLGY | Use Caesar cipher and move 2 to the left to get: ENMF JUEW | Translate to pig pen cipher: 0000 0000 0000 0000 | Write it out backwards: A.V.O.L.F. C.E.O.O | Finally translate from pig pen to end with: WELL DONE

Here is how you solve Nathan's code:



The Priory+ Awards



Mr Eastham presented badges and certificates to pupils who had achieved the next stage in the Priory+ Awards.

Over 210 pupils achieved this recognition during the Autumn term and on Thursday, those that chose to be personally presented by the Principal got to receive their rewards. Pupils who have opted out of this will have their certificates and badges presented to them by their Head of Year.

Priory+ was introduced to encourage and reward pupils for working on their own Personal Development. At Penwortham Priory Academy we believe that strong Personal Development provision contributes to making a positive difference to pupils' lives. The opportunities provided not only allow them to engage in activities they are interested in, but enables them to explore and build a strong pathway to, and foundation for, a successful future.

Our activities fit into five overarching strands, which supplement our Character and Culture Personal Development sessions in Learning for Life. There are five strands:

Culture & Heritage | **Future Citizens** | **Health & Well-Being** | **Skill Builders** | **Bright Futures**

*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development*



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Personal Development at Priory

The Priory+ Award



Our Personal Development Award Programme aims to encourage pupils to engage in a wide range of activities, both in and out of school, that contribute further to their own personal development, and rewards them for doing so.

Personal Development is important for everyone at every life stage. It is important as it empowers us to grow, adapt and lead more fulfilling lives. It helps us develop valuable skills, self-awareness, and resilience, which can positively impact various aspects of our lives, from relationships to career success and overall well-being.

Rewards

Priory+ is rewarded with a star badge, certificates for pupil's Record of Achievement and Achievement Points towards trips.

Criteria

Pupils will achieve a star when they: Complete one activity from each of the five strands (see below), in each term. One activity must be a co-curricular club/activity/group from the timetable provided.

Awards Achieved Autumn Term

Bronze 1 Award	90
Bronze 2 Award	44
Bronze 3 Award	24
Silver 1 Award	41
Silver 2 Award	5
Silver 3 Award	3
Gold 1 Award	1
Gold 2 Award	1
Gold 3 Award	1
Platinum Award	1

A special congratulations to our first pupil to achieve the highest award - Year 11 Theo C has earned the Platinum award and will collect his badge and certificate from Mr Eastham.

Priory+ Award Activities

Awarded for achievements in Personal Development

Culture and Heritage	Future Citizen	Health & Wellbeing	Skills Builder	Bright Futures
Visit to a; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ castle ➢ religious building ➢ museum ➢ art gallery ➢ theatre ➢ musical event ➢ dance event ➢ sporting event ➢ heritage site or building Participate in or watch; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ a competition ➢ a religious event ➢ cultural event ➢ creative art event Join Culture Club Learn about an aspect of another culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Give money to charity ➢ Put items in a charity bag ➢ Donate to a food bank ➢ Donate to the homeless ➢ Help organise a community or school event ➢ Volunteer to help someone ➢ Speak in public about an issue (includes assemblies) Participate in; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ an election or vote ➢ a community event or festival 	Participate in an activity that keeps you physically fit and well; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Participate in a sport ➢ Ride your bike ➢ Go for a walk or jog ➢ Create an eating and drinking plan ➢ Sleep the recommended time Participate in an activity that keeps you mentally and emotionally well; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Meditate ➢ Mindfulness activities ➢ Get organised ➢ Create a positivity book ➢ Plan your future ➢ Manage your money ➢ Pray 	Continue or learn a new; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ skill ➢ craft ➢ language Develop employment skills such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ leadership ➢ organisation ➢ resilience ➢ initiative ➢ communication ➢ presentation ➢ teamwork ➢ problem solving Join a club or an activity in school which develops a skill.	Research; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ KS4 options, further or higher education ➢ apprenticeships ➢ T Levels ➢ colleges and universities ➢ careers and jobs Visit a careers fair or expo Practice writing CVs and application forms Regularly volunteer in and out of school as work experience Careers interview Year 10 work experience Part time job Working with an adult

Learn to succeed

Year 9 Tell Anne Frank's Story For Good

Anne Frank.
The Anne Frank Trust UK

Priory's Year 9s have been learning about Anne Frank this week as they use the exhibition which has been set up in school to talk about the dangers of intolerance and hatred.

The Anne Frank Exhibition, from the Anne Frank Trust, is all about the life of Anne which is used as a platform for education about anti-semitism and all forms of hatred.

Teenager Anne Frank was a German-born Jewish girl who kept a diary where she recorded hiding in an Amsterdam attic during World War II during the Nazi persecution. Anne died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, aged 15.

Anne Frank Trust's Lucy Allan spent time with the Year 9s at Priory who volunteered to teach the Anne Frank story to Year 7 & 8 pupils this week, as well as Year 6 pupils from Penwortham Primary School.

Lucy said: "We have done lots of work about challenging prejudice and discussed World War II and Anne Frank's life. We have also carried out a number of activities and workshops so the pupils can become Peer Educators/Tour Guides.



"They have been so enthusiastic and come up with a lot of their own ideas and amazing scripts to tell the important story of Anne Frank's life.

Lucy continues to explain, "This is about discrimination as a whole, whether it's anti-semitism, islamophobia, homophobia. It's been nice to come to Priory and speak to the pupils who have been fantastic."

Year 9 James said: "I have learnt all about Anne Frank's life and it has been a really interesting experience."

Haniya said: "I wanted to know more about Anne Frank as I think it will help my understanding of the current situation in Gaza. I want to understand both sides of the argument and what has happened to the Jewish people in the past. It's been very educational and I have enjoyed it."

Continued overleaf...



Learn to succeed

Continued from previous page...

Zach admitted: "I like history so this is why I chose to do this and I have learnt a lot. It's hard to think of, being a similar age to Anne, what she went through and it is upsetting. She died at 15 and really didn't have the chance to experience life at all."

Connor said: "I remember doing the tour in Year 7 and I like history so I wanted to learn more which is why I volunteered to become a Peer Educator."

"I have learnt a lot. It's hard to think what Anne went through when she was so young."

Noah added: "My part of the talk is about Anne being in the annex so I have gone into more depth about this and obviously it was hard. I never knew how she died. I think it can all translate into today's world."

Well done to: James C, Junaid, Q, Harriet H, Anna H, Noah W, Toby H, Connor S, Zach M, Richard J, Evie C, Haniya A, Emily A, Tarela O, Hanah N.



RE Masterclass for Year 10 Pupils

In January the Year 10 GCSE RE class was invited to debate some 'big questions' at Runshaw College's horizon masterclass entitled, 'Freedom & The Existence of God', run by the A Level Religious Studies and Philosophy course leaders.

The masterclasses are designed to provide challenging and thought provoking sessions for pupils who want to extend and stretch their learning whilst exploring different subjects they may want to pursue in their future.

RE Teacher and Head of Year 8, Mrs Ham, took her class of pupils and had a pleasant surprise in store for them when they bumped into one of Priory's former Humanities teachers.

During the half day event pupils examined if human beings truly possess free will. Through the use of both real-life and hypothetical examples, students were encouraged to reflect on the nature of human freedom and to assess whether we can make sense of this idea, as well as considering the implications of our answer to this question. We examined the philosophical arguments for the existence of God.

Lewis A explained, "Firstly, we learnt about philosophy which was very interesting and enlightening. We learnt about creation theories and arguments for the existence of God, which was educational."

Zayd Z added, "We went to Runshaw College to learn a little more about Philosophy and Religious Studies. I enjoyed Philosophy more as it was more exciting."

Others said, "We had a session on philosophy, where we learnt about big questions, 'are you free?' Next, we learnt about arguments for the existence of God. We also got to see Miss Ackers!"

"We had a session about free will with the philosophy teacher. We had a great time and even saw Miss Ackers."



Learn to succeed

Head Prefects Attend South Ribble Holocaust Memorial Day Service



In January, Humanities teachers Mr Eccles and Mrs Cauchi took two of Priory's Head Prefects to the South Ribble Holocaust Memorial Day event.

Saturday, 27 January marked Holocaust Memorial Day, a day when we stop and remember not just those who died at the hands of the Nazis during World War II but the thousands who have died in genocides since.

Held at the South Ribble Borough Council civic centre in Leyland, Year 11 Cameron and Martha were each asked to do a reading. Martha chose to read an extract from Anne Frank's Diary and Cameron read a poem about the genocide in Rwanda that occurred 30 years ago this year.

The event was attended by officials from across South Ribble including the Mayor and Mayoress.

Lead teacher for History, Mr Eccles, said, "Naturally I was very proud of both of them as this event re-enforces what we teach here in school about the persecution that led to the Holocaust."



During Learning For Life lessons last Friday, a YouTube clip was shown to pupils on behalf of the Humanities department >> www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEcalL1neQ4. The theme this year was 'Fragility is Freedom' and we were all asked to reflect on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse.

Mr Eccles
Lead Teacher of History



Learn to succeed

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Priory Raises Over £500 For Local Hospice



Generous Priory pupils and staff raised £521 for St Catherine's Hospice – and got to wear their favourite clothes in school!

The school held a 'Christmas Jumper Day' and also a 'House Colours Day' and from these two days raised funds for St Catherine's Hospice, which cares for patients and families across Chorley, Preston and South Ribble who are affected by life-shortening conditions like cancer, motor neurone disease and heart failure.

The pupils also had a Learning for Life session learning about the vital work St Catherine's carry out.

Ms Smith, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, said: "It was informative for the pupils to hear about the work St Catherine's do and understand the charity they were donating to.

"It looked great in the end of term full school assembly to see pupils decked out in their house colours of red, blue, yellow and green!"



St Catherine's Corporate Engagement Officer, Sophie Yaeger, hopes to work more closely with schools and was delighted to visit Priory and collect the cheque.

"It's amazing and every penny does count. We are a local charity and we want to get more schools involved and educate pupils about the work of the hospice. It's lovely to visit Priory and we can't thank everyone enough for raising £521 for us – it truly is appreciated and will make a difference."

*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development*

Year 10 & 11 Engineering Pupils Enjoy a Careers Day at Leyland Trucks

LEYLAND TRUCKS
A PACCAR COMPANY

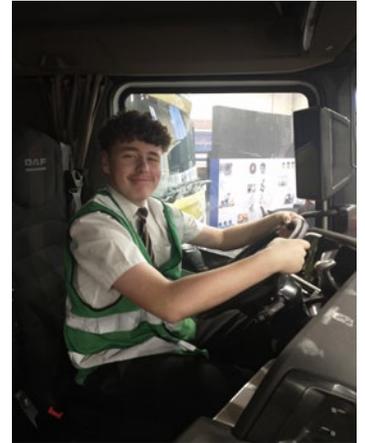
With such an iconic business like Leyland Trucks on our doorstep, we couldn't resist the opportunity and accept their invitation to take some of our Year 10 & Year 11 students on a visit to learn more about an automotive engineering business and the apprenticeships on offer for school leavers.

The visit was open to all Key Stage 4 students but it was our engineering students that leapt at the chance to take part. We were lucky enough to secure two slots to visit their manufacturing plant in Leyland over two separate days where pupils enjoyed a factory tour and received an overview of apprentice opportunities available at the company.

As part of the experience, pupils followed a DAF XF model through its various stages of assembly on the production line with commentary from one of the automotive engineers who explained the manufacturing technologies applied. Pupils even got to climb aboard the driver's cab of an XG+ truck!

Technology teacher, Mrs Lockwood, said, "This visit was a great experience for our students studying the NCFE Level 1 and Level 2 Engineering qualification to see a working factory first hand. Some of our pupils aspire to taking on an apprenticeship at Leyland Trucks in the future and have family connections to the factory which made the visit even more special."

*Mrs Lowe
Head of Technology
Mrs Lockwood
Teacher of Technology*



Learn to Succeed

Mrs Elliott's Cool Readers Club

Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

Introducing, Reese, Georgia and Alexis...

Three Year 8s have been discussing their latest reading adventures as part of our Cool Reader series.

Reese is reading 'A Different Sort of Normal' by Abigail Balfe.

"It's about a girl growing up with autism and it is her different view of life," said Reese. "My favourite author is Rachel Russell who wrote Dork Diaries."

Reese likes Science the best and said: "I want to be a marine biologist in the future, I love turtles!"

Georgia is reading 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio.



"It's about a boy who has a facial disfigurement and keeps getting bullied. It is an interesting book.

"My favourite author is David Walliams as his books make me laugh."

Georgia enjoys PE and said: "I play football for Cadley Under 14s in midfield. My dream is to be a professional footballer like Chloe Kelly."

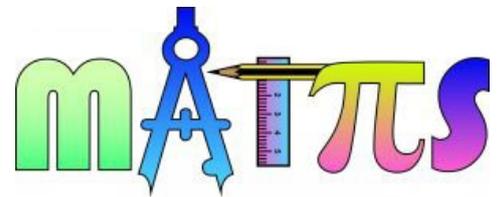
Alexis is reading 'Talking to Alaska' by Anna Woltz.

"I am a bit confused by it at the moment as I have just started it. It's about a girl who is at school and a dog called Alaska! My favourite novels are horror ones.

"I like Art and Graphic Design in school and I would like to be an artist."

Mrs Elliott English
Teacher and Chief Librarian

From Primary to Priory: Maths Challenge Day



Last Friday, local primary schools were invited to put their problem solving, logic and teamwork skills to the test as they competed in the inaugural Priory Maths Challenge.

Maths teacher, Mr Evans, who led the event said, "It was a closely fought contest and all of the teams did themselves proud, but the deserving winners were Lostock Hall Primary School."

Special praise goes to our Year 10 student helpers, who assisted with the running of the event:



Sophia T, Kayleigh I, Abbie S, Jane W, Kira S, Emily P



Learn to succeed

Humanities Department Rewards Artists For Their Postcard Designs



Talented Priory pupils put pen to paper to design a Humanities rewards postcard. The last set were designed two years ago and so it was time to refresh them.

It was a tough choice for Head of Humanities Mr Metcalfe to select the winners out of 70 exceptional entries but finally he chose Year 10 Agnes and Year 9 Junaid's designs.

Mr Metcalfe said: "It was a whole school competition and we got 70 entries and they were all really strong.

"The last Humanities rewards postcards were designed two years ago so it was a good time to revamp them.

"It was a tough choice but both Agnes and Junaid created fantastic designs. They were both stunning and we have to thank Mrs Cauchi for running the competition.

"Rewards postcards are given out for a number of reasons such as good work, polite manners and Priory standards."



Agnes and Junaid will both receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

Agnes said: "My design took me around four hours but I enjoyed doing it. I based it around a compass and then pointing to different items for History, Religious Studies and Geography. It's nice to see it in a postcard form."

Junaid said: "I had a few attempts but was happy with my final version. I am very proud to win as it means my hard work has paid off."

Mr Metcalfe
Head of Humanities

Compost Corner

Spring Update

Priory's gardens are our pride and joy and award-winning gardener Mr Farron wants to let parents and pupils know what to expect each season as the landscape changes.



Seasons greetings fellow composters

Well, we are in deep mid-winter and the weather continues to bring fresh challenges for all who are engaged in horticulture ie, gardeners!

So I thought it would be worth engaging in what splendour is around us all. The garden needn't be dull at this time of year as the days get chillier, many tough plants give an amazing display through colour and structure.

Pot up your containers with seasonal plants to give several months of pleasure therefore I have been researching my plant guides so as to recommend the following plants for display:

Containers

Gaultheria Procumbens - Brings an instant stylish look using the white or red berries gaultheria, combined with dwarf conifers, pansies and miniature Cyclamen for an extra splash of colour.



Stunning Seed Heads

Both ornamental grasses and perennial seed heads look terrific covered with frost and it pays to delay cutting back until spring to enjoy a long-lasting display. So be aware of your surrounding stock. There are a number of plants that give a wonderful sculptured effect and they are: *Sea Holly*, *Miscanthus sinensis*, *veronicastrum virginicum*, *verbena bonariensis*

For Winter Scent

Abeliophyllum - Related to Forsythia
Daphne Bholua – Heady fragrance
Viburnum Bodnantense – Heavy scented
Winter Honeysuckle – Scented tubular flowers
Witch Hazel – Fantastic citrus scent

Foliage & Berries

Plants with more than one season are invaluable, particularly those that form berries, while evergreens provide structure and formality.

So here at Priory there are continued plans for the overall appearance of a well planned and colourful environment for the benefit of student, staff and visitors to enjoy the seasons to come. I am especially excited to see the recently finished planting and design of our rose garden in full bloom and I look forward to that moment.

Work in Progress

Out in the Priory garden central, I have started to remove the old shrubs from the side walls to create a noticeable herbaceous and perennial display which will flower year on year. Also planned, will be a colourful planted area by the four seasons figures to add a further interest to this beautiful place.



To conclude I would like to thank the students especially for respecting our gardens and we can look forward to a happy new year in these pleasant surroundings,

Mr C Farron, Gardener

Honorary Member of the RHS
Winner of North West Britain in Bloom, South Ribble in Bloom and Penwortham in Bloom
Judge for South Ribble and Penwortham in Bloom competitions

From Primary to Priory: Trampolining with the PE Department

Over two separate visits, we invited Year 3 classes from Whitefield Primary School to learn how to 'bounce' on our giant trampolines.

PE Teacher and Head of Year 10, Mrs Bullock said, "They were amazing and made so much progress in an hour. They were all so resilient and performed a range of trampolining skills from basic shapes to swivel hips."

Whitefield Primary School staff were delighted with their experience, saying, "Thank you Priory Academy and your amazing staff for allowing us to attend."



Penwortham Priory Academy Flash Back

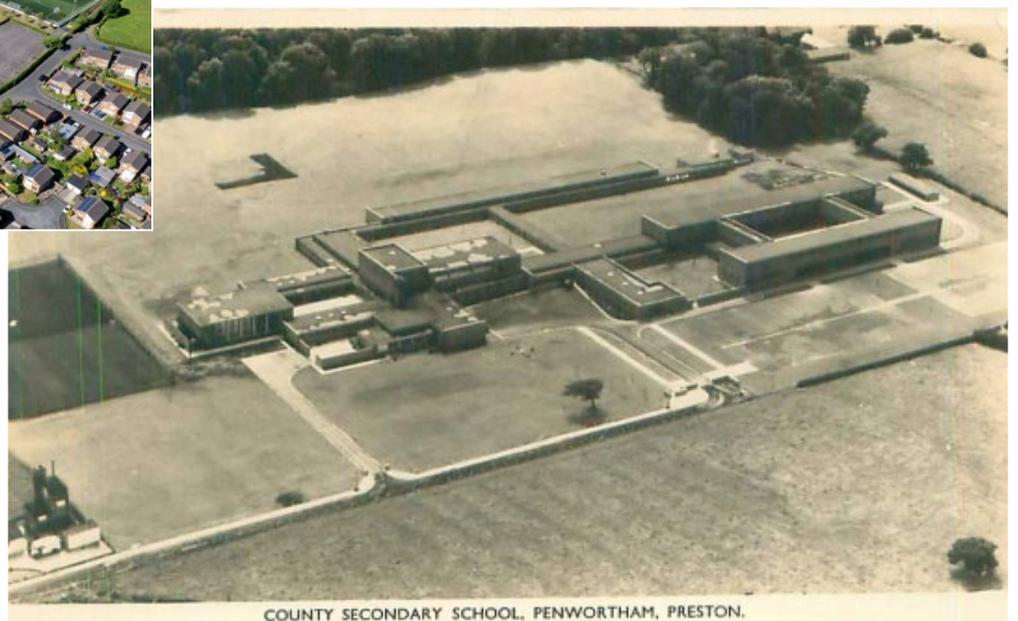


Earlier this week, we found the photo below shared on social media.



Taken, we believe, in the very early years of the 1950s, when the school was known as Penwortham County Secondary School.

It's a far cry from how it looks now, with many additional buildings and the housing opposite.



Year 11 Football Team On Target For The Cup



Priory's Year 11 football team are up for the cup after reaching the quarter-finals of the Lancashire Cup.

The talented team have seen off St Augustine's in Billington 3-1, the Armfield Academy in Blackpool 3-1 and Darwen Aldridge Community Academy 4-1 so far in the competition.

They will face the winners of Hutton Grammar v Ormskirk High School on 23rd February for a place in the semi-finals.

Harry is the captain while top scorer is Mason has scored six goals so far in this competition.

Striker Mason is currently having trials with League Two side Accrington Stanley.

Assistant, Principal, Mr Gee has been coaching the team since Year 7 and said: "I have watched them grow-up and grow as a team. It's the furthest we as a school have ever been in this competition and we hope to go further!"



Read more about our footballing stars...

Connor will attend one of the biggest kickboxing competitions when he goes to Holland to take part in the European Cup.

The Year 11 pupil is already an English, British and European champion and will travel to Holland this month to compete in the -63kg for age group 16-18.

Continued next page..



Learn to succeed

Continued from overleaf...

He is a member of NSK in Leyland, trains six days a week and has been kickboxing for more than 10 years.

"It's a really big event, one of the biggest and you have to get selected to go so I am excited," said Connor. "I am going there to win it."

Mason is having trials with Accrington Stanley Academy.



Theo has made history by becoming the school's first Platinum Priory+ pupil.



The Priory+ Award is a programme where pupils are rewarded for engaging in activities that contribute to their own personal development. It's to encourage pupils to take part in a wide range of activities both in and out of school.

Priory+ is rewarded with a star badge, certificate for pupil's records of achievement and achievement points towards trips and visits. They have to compete an activity from five strands to earn a coveted badge at each stage of the programme.

Theo said: "I have been travelling around England increasing my knowledge of culture and heritage, I have also played football and basketball and have generally been helping out."

Principal Mr Eastham said: "Theo has earned our first Platinum Award, which is a huge achievement and he deserves a massive well done. It's such a big achievement."

I Love Maths Because...



Head of Maths Mr Sneddon, along with the Maths Department, is running a competition asking pupils to say what they particularly enjoy about their subject.

Pupils are tasked with completing the following sentence, "I love Maths because..." and qualifying responses are rewarded with an *I love Maths* badge.

Here's why Year 11 Daniel loves Maths:

Daniel... *because it's absolutely incredible. When I see mathematical equations, I immediately get engaged in the lesson. This lesson is absolutely madness. Love it. Love it more than anything. Love it more than English.*

NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN... Pupils that want to claim an 'I love Maths' badge should simply click the link below to access the online form and write Mr Sneddon a few sentences or paragraphs explaining why they love maths. The best responses from each year group will be selected and also featured here in our article. <https://forms.office.com/e/cAKzEBpP1H>



Mrs Elliott's Cool Readers Club

Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

Introducing Craig and George...

Two Year 7s have been discussing their latest reading adventures as part of our Cool Reader series.

Craig is reading 'What Monster?' which is the 15th title in the multi-million bestselling Tom Gates series of books by Liz Pichon.

It's about a 'scary beast which has escaped into Tom's sort-of-normal world' and it's about trying to find out who it is.

Craig said: "It's very easy to read and it's funny so it's good. I read at home and in the school library.

"My favourite subject in school is Geography. At home, I enjoy playing on my X-Box."



Year 7 George tests himself at the Street Monkeys Academy in Preston but he does have time to rest with a book.

George is reading 'Five Night's at Freddy's' which began as a video game series and is now a book.

"It's ok. I do like horror books but I am not sure about this one yet," said George.

"I prefer reading books by authors like David Walliams. They are funny and a break from the normal.

"In my spare time I do attend Street Monkeys Academy which is a running, parkour and stunt academy. I enjoy climbing."



Mrs Elliott English
Teacher and Chief Librarian

Science Pupils Going For Gold

SENECA

The first groups of pupils have started to receive their Science badges. These have been awarded for successfully completing twenty Seneca assignments with an average score of at least 70%.



Science badges are linked to Seneca completion and are given through a range of tiers. The yellow badge is the first tier of the department's award programme and is presented to those, across all year groups, who have met the twenty assignment target.



Seneca is an highly engaging online homework and revision platform based on exam board specifications, it uses smart algorithms that help students to remember topics better.

Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter said, "Badges are awarded for our basic homework expectation but we are keen to offer acknowledgement to the vast majority of students who complete their homework every week without issue."

Meeting each completed assignments target will allow the badge to be exchanged for the next tier, up to the prestigious gold badge.

Head of Science, Mr Bedford added, "These pupils' Science badges are a worthy addition to what in some cases is already a wide collection!"

Pupils are reminded that Seneca club is runs every Wednesday lunch time in the Nucleus where pupils can use the science laptops to complete their homework, ask for help or resolve any password issues.

This group of Year 7 pupils were amongst those gaining their badge this week: Sophia L, Morsal M, Imogen K, Akemi K, Larna Jayne W, Jacob S, Oliver C, Wez A, Theo L, Ada McM, Holly McC, Dexter H, Marshall T, Joel W, Archie Q.

*Mrs Potter
Assistant Head of Science*

Learn to succeed

Year 10 Peer Mentors 2023-2024

Our mission:

“To support our peers by Enhancing social competence, Building security within the setting and wider community by realising their worth as social beings, Improving attendance and educational attainment whilst Developing friendship skills in a positive environment.”

What is a Peer Mentor?

At Priory we realise that our older pupils are excellent role models for younger pupils and so we have a very successful peer mentoring programme in place.

Our qualified peer mentors will help pupils cope with everyday life and worries at school and will offer guidance on both social and academic areas of school life.

Peer Mentors also act as reading mentors to younger pupils, they are a point of contact within Learning for Life groups for Year 7 and they work alongside the prefects to represent the school at events such as open evenings, performing arts performances and parent evenings.

All Peer Mentors have attended structured training sessions in school with an external trainer where they were given an introduction to mentoring and 'buddying' younger ones.

Each learner participated in activities across five challenges to gain a 10 hours accredited ASDAN certificate. This nationally recognised certificate qualifies their competence in the role.

Where to find us...

Come and have a chat with us at the Peer Mentor Station where we can offer advice and support.

We're here to help!



Lewis A - D5



Lauren C - D3



Christopher C - R6



Oliver E - C3



Umar H - D1



Emma H - R6



Jake L - D4



Charlotte M - D6



Emily P - C2



DaMari S - R3



Kira S - C1



Chittara K-V - D3

creating the right culture to learn to succeed



Dance CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY LUNCH

IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Chess Club

Thursday Lunch

In LEAP 1

New players welcome

Bring your Lunch

Supervising Staff
Mrs D Swire/Mr A Imms

And your brain!

Learn to succeed



Class of 2006:

Jordan North

Jordan Joins Capital Radio to Host Breakfast Show Starting April 2024

Capital announced last week that broadcaster and radio presenter, Jordan North, will become the new host of Capital Radio's flagship Breakfast Show.

Priory's Class of 2006 celebrity returned to Priory in 2018 to deliver an inspirational speech to the outgoing Year 11 pupils. Jordan never forgot his roots and often mentions his favourite teacher (Mrs Crank) in his shows.



Jordan started his DJ radio broadcasting career in Preston, with early stints at Rock FM, and departs from Radio 1 after a decade.



The news was broadcast live on air, where outgoing host Roman Kemp introduced Jordan to the Capital Breakfast audience.



Spotted!

Class of 2019:

Mohammed 'Nawwy' Ali

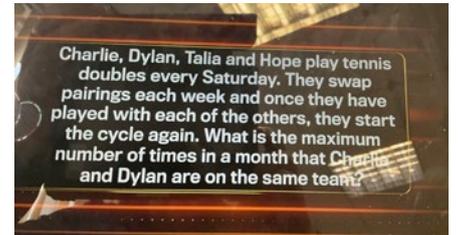
Mohammed was spotted on ITV's Saturday night game show, the 1% Club, where contestants answer questions about logic



and common sense to win £100,000. See episode broadcast 17 February.

Presenter Lee Mack had a jibe at two contestants with famous names, including Mohammed who joked that the boxer was actually his great uncle!

Unfortunately the former Priory pupil, with siblings in Year 9 and Year 11, didn't win the big money although did well, going out at 30% with this question...



(answer below)

Class of 2012:

Ed Duckworth

Ed was the referee during the Accrington Stanley v AFC Wimbledon match on Tuesday, 13 February. This is Ed's first year as referee in the English Football League.

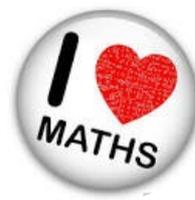


1% Club Answer: Twice

Learn to succeed

I Love Maths Because...

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Pupils are tasked with completing the following sentence, "*I love Maths because...*" and qualifying responses are rewarded with an *I love Maths* badge.

Here's why Year 8 Alfie loves Maths:

Alfie... *because of the specific answers which makes it very simple, this means that there is an exact answer for everything unlike English where everything is abstract.*

Now, It's YOUR Turn...

Pupils that want to claim an 'I love Maths' badge should simply click the link below (or check your year group Teams) to access the online form and write Mr Sneddon a few sentences explaining why you love maths. The best responses from each year group will be selected and also featured here in our article.



<https://forms.office.com/e/cAKzEBpP1H>

NEW New TV Display Screens

Pupils and staff may have noticed that we have two new digital TV display screens at Priory where you will find an abundance of news and information.

From Priory Post articles and extra curricular clubs to weekly announcements and important bulletins - the screens will be kept up to date daily.

There is red tickertape scrolling across the bottom of the screen with important messages and reminders for the day, such as trip meetings and exams timings, and it is recommended that pupils check this every day on passing. If they have more time, then take a read of some of the other content as well, including the fun 'Did you know' snippets linking to that week's Music at Break and Lunch (MaBaL). As the weekly newsletter's on there, they may spot themselves too!

The screens can be found in the corridor heading towards the dining room and the other is in the Technology department. Look out for another coming to the Bistro soon.



Learn to succeed

World Book Day | 7 March

Priory prides itself on developing confident readers to ensure that all our pupils are able to participate in reading for pleasure. We have a library stocked with great reads for the pupils and pupil librarians happy to make recommendations and offer advice. We have also invested in reading software which is already making a difference to not just pupils' reading skills, but also to their desire to read for pleasure.

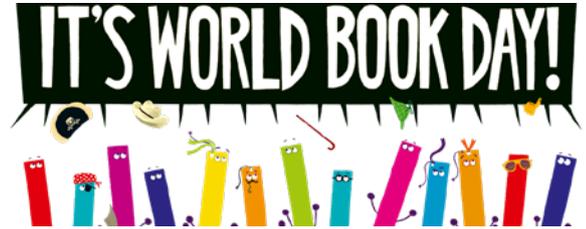
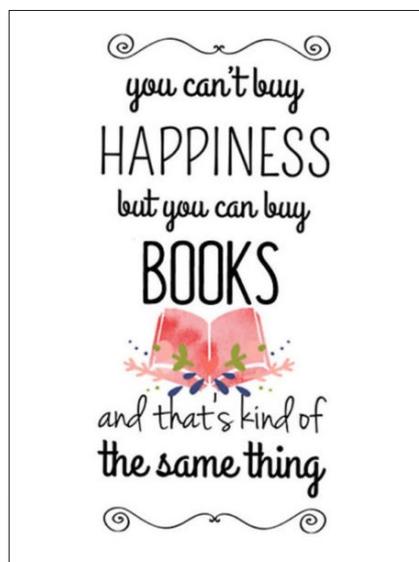
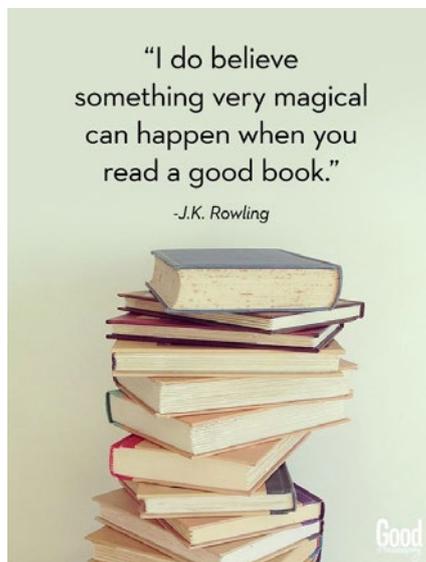
World Book Day takes place on the 7th March. Staff will be sharing their own reading experiences during lessons and quizzes will bring a bit of fun to the day, but we'd also like to re-affirm with parents and carers why we value reading so highly.

1. Children who own a book are three times more likely to read above age expected level.
2. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.
3. Reading for pleasure is one of the most important predictors of test scores at age 16, regardless of background.
4. There is a strong correlation between regular reading for pleasure and mental wellbeing
5. Reading improves a child's empathy skills

Source: World Book Day website

Here's just some of the antics we got up to last year...

Mrs Elliott English
Teacher and Chief Librarian





Engineering The Future for Year 10 Pupils

The Technology department were recently able to secure a fantastic 'hands-on' learning experience for 25 of our Year 10 Engineering students at Preston College.

The college created a range of bespoke sessions for pupils to sample life in the Engineering department, delivered by experienced college staff. The visit focused on Aeronautical, Automotive and General Engineering which gave Priory pupils the opportunity to explore new areas of engineering from a different learning perspective and enhance their current subject knowledge.

Technology Teacher, Mrs Lockwood, who accompanied the pupils, said "All the students thoroughly enjoyed the activities and found the visit inspiring and informative, helping to inform their career choices for the future."

*Mrs Lockwood
Technology Teacher*



Learn to succeed

Year 10s Introduced To Volunteering at Assembly

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Last Wednesday, Priory welcomed Alison Coates of the Royal Voluntary Service to talk about the benefits of volunteering.

Alison is a platinum champion for the RVS and spoke to Year 10 pupils in an assembly on the subject of giving up your time to help others.

The volunteering charity supports the NHS and people in need in every corner of Britain. Their volunteers work with healthcare teams and in communities providing practical help and emotional support when people are struggling to cope. There are other sources dedicated to helping people find volunteering opportunities and Alison spoke about how to look for these too.

Pupils learnt about why volunteering could be for them.

- Meeting new people and connecting with the community
- Learn new skills
- Improve your wellbeing
- Make a difference
- Give something back

A leaflet is available with further information about volunteering and this, as well as links, will be added to the Year 10 Teams. If anyone would like to explore any ideas they have for volunteering then they can speak with Ms Smith, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development.

www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Learning Newsletters

Every half term we put together a newsletter for parents where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child at home, in order to benefit them and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

This next issue looks at **'Reading'** with an introduction to BorrowBox (Lancashire County Council's free digital library service) and Reading Plus (a new reading programme for Year 7, 8 & 9)

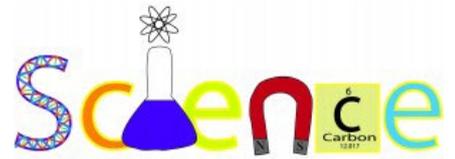
This half term's issue has been emailed to parents last week however all past issues can be downloaded from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/newsletters (see Learning Newsletters tab)

Mrs Cowell
Vice Principal

Learn to succeed



British Science Week - Smashing Stereotypes Ahead of Time



British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths which takes place 8-17 March. This year, British Science Week marks its 30th anniversary and to celebrate this they have chosen the theme: 'Time'



This week, every pupil in Year 7 and Year 8 has taken part in special Science lessons to explore the theme and to meet one of the aims of the week which is to 'smash stereotypes'.

Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, told us, "In their first lesson, students looked at 'what a scientist actually looks like', and we had a great range of ideas but managed to conclude that a scientist could look like anyone! We also looked at careers that they might not have thought you needed science to do and saw that Science underpins most, if not all careers in some way."

The STEM (Science Technology, Engineering & Maths) practical exercise for British Science Week this year was to design and build a mechanism to accurately measure 10 seconds. There



were some excellent solutions to this using either sand and a cup or some very imaginative marble run designs.



The closest time across both year groups was measured at 9.91 seconds in Mrs Roberts' Year 8 class but all of the classes have done themselves proud as you can see from the efforts in Mrs Massey's room (see photos). The winners (Year 8 Sophie P, Phoebe P and Maya R) said that they really enjoyed the practical work, especially the testing part where they kept tweaking their designs to improve it.



Learn to succeed

Pupils Vote in National Youth Parliament Elections

This week pupils participated in the largest ballot for young people, the Youth Parliament elections.

Make Your Mark

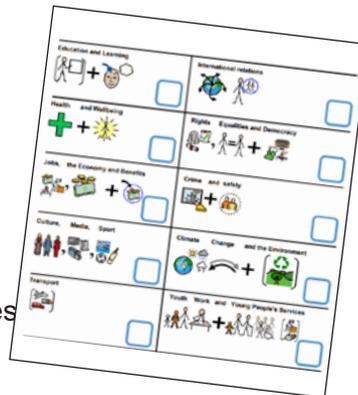
Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

The UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

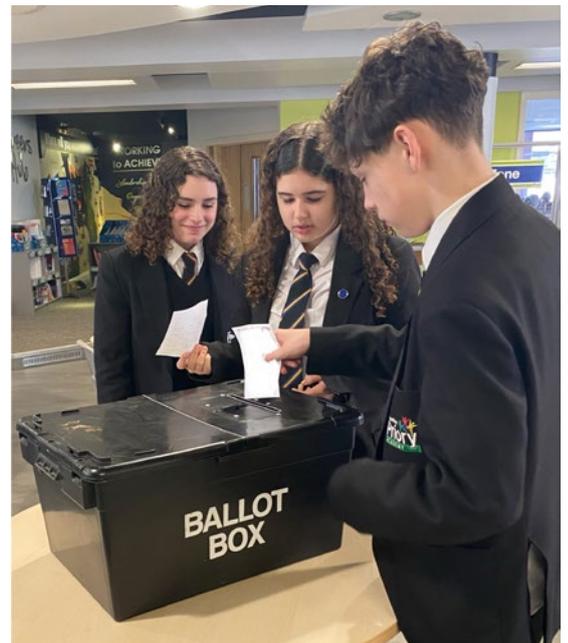
During Learning for Life lessons, pupils were given a presentation on the work of the Youth Parliament and learned why their vote mattered. Each pupil had one vote to select the topic they are most passionate about and want more national action on. As in adult elections, they had to put a large X in one box only. Voting slips with more than one X were not counted. We even had a real ballot box loaned from South Ribble Borough Council!

613 votes were cast (4 votes blank \ 8 votes void) and the results are as follows:

- 173 votes Jobs, the economy and benefits
- 107 votes Culture, media and sport
- 94 votes Health and wellbeing
- 73 votes Crime and safety
- 37 votes Climate change and the environment
- 34 votes Transport
- 26 votes Rights, equalities and democracy
- 24 votes Youth work and young people's services
- 15 votes Education and learning
- 13 votes International relations



These figures will now be submitted and added to the national totals. The three topics with the most votes nationally will become the newly elected Members of Youth Parliament's campaign theme for their two year term.



Celebrating Ramadan



CULTURE
AT PRIORY

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is one of the most sacred times for Muslims. During this month, Muslims observe a strict daily fast from dawn until sunset. They are not allowed to eat or drink, not even water, during these daylight hours.

In 2024, the first day of fasting starts at sundown on Sunday, 10 March and will end at sundown on Tuesday, 9 April, which is 30 days.



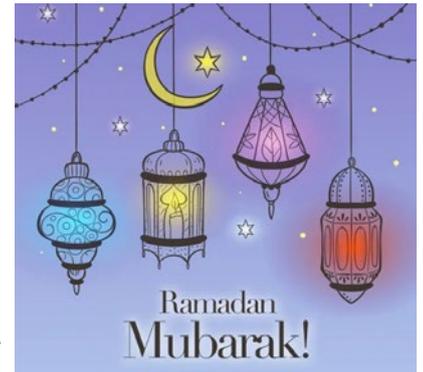
Fasting times this year are between 4.30am and 6:10pm at the beginning of Ramadan, with the fasting times getting longer (especially as the clocks go forward later in the month).

During Ramadan many Muslims go to the mosque and spend several hours praying. In addition to the five daily prayers that are part of the core of Islam, Muslims recite a special prayer called the Tarawih prayer (night prayer). The last ten nights of Ramadan are especially important and many Muslims will increase in their nightly prayers and devotion.

At the end of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, a feast that celebrates the breaking of the fast takes place. Gifts are exchanged and friends and families gather for festive meals. Special gifts are also given to the poor.

Photo right, members of Culture Club

On the next page, Umar, Year 10, tells us what life is like for him during Ramadan>>



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Mrs Qadri
Head of ICT &
Computing



Learn to succeed

What life is like during Ramadan - Umar's story...

Ramadan is an Islamic month when we fast from sunrise till sunset. It's the month of sacrifice, tranquillity, happiness etc...

What I do in a day...

I wake up an hour early before the fasting time begins to start; the fast depending on the timetable we get from the mosque. I eat something like porridge or something that will fulfil me for the day.

After the time starts to fast we go to the mosque for our prayer called Fajr. I go to pray then I come back home and sleep before I need to get up again for school.

During the full day we don't eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. People who are fasting can be tired from PE or being out when it's hot outside.

After school we go home and we say our prayers that we have missed during school time, then we rest for a little while and go to the mosque

to pray Qur'an and pray our prayers as a congregation.

We break our fast at the mosque when the call to prayer is been given out loud. Our parents start preparing a couple of hours before we break our fast. After breaking our fast at mosque we then go home and eat together.

My favourite food in Ramadan is Samosas, kebabs and many other things. After eating we sit for a bit then go for our last prayers for the day.

During Ramadan we pray something called 'Taraweeh' which is for an hour so we are at mosque until it has been finished. After that, I go home and just do the same thing every day. During the month, we pray as much Qur'an as we can; many people pray the full Qur'an.

Umar (Year 10)



ECO Club is on the Hunt for Batteries

We are back again with our battery collection. We want to recycle as many batteries as possible. Last year we recycled over 1500 batteries!

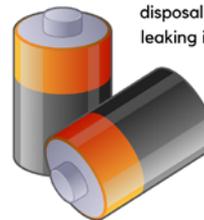
Put your used batteries in the box in the Nucleus. There will be a prize for the form that recycles the most batteries and points for winning House too.



Thank you to Year 10 Chittara, for designing this poster on behalf of ECO Club.

BATTERIES RECYCLING CHALLENGE

Batteries are composed of harmful chemicals like lead, cadmium, zinc, lithium, and mercury. Improper disposal of batteries can result in these chemicals leaking into the ground, leading to soil and water pollution.



Over 600 million batteries are thrown away each year in the UK, with only one-third collected and recycled.

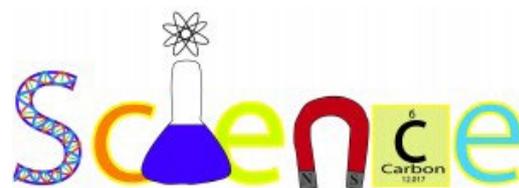
If you have wasted batteries come and drop them in the battery recycle bin in the nucleus. there will be a book so don't forget to register your name, class and the number of batteries you have recycled. The house that recycles the most batteries will receive house points. **This challenge starts from the 11th to the 25th of March.**

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL the form that recycles the most batteries receives a surprise gift!



So let's make the world a better place one battery at a time!

From Primary to Priory: Inspiring our next Scientists



Last Monday, Priory's senior science teachers were invited to deliver an assembly at Penwortham Primary School on their school value of 'reflection', through the lens of science.

Mr Bedford and Mrs Potter took the opportunity to inspire some future scientists, as well as future Priory pupils. Mr Bedford recalled the story of Sir Isaac Newton and his reflections on why the apples from his tree always fell to the ground, leading to the revolutionary theory of gravity. Mrs Potter recounted the story of

Archimedes reflecting on how he could assess the purity of the king's crown before his famous "eureka!" moment.

We received some great feedback from our neighbouring school and the Headteacher Miss Penarski commented, "Thanks to Mr Bedford and Mrs Potter for coming over and delivering a great assembly on Reflection. Our pupils found it very interesting to hear the stories and were talking positively about both science and Priory in the days that followed."



Inter-House Competition | **Calder** | **Douglas** | **Hodder** | **Ribble**

Four Houses 'Connect' For Games Challenge

The latest 'just for fun' House event took place on Thursday lunchtime in the Nucleus.

Mrs Massey challenged players to win at Connect 4. Some great battles took place with several staff vs pupils matches. Points were awarded for each person taking part and extra points for winning players.

Mr Raynor's Ribble team won Gold overall, with Calder in second for the Silver.

Results:

- 1st **Ribble** (Gold)
- 2nd **Calder** (Silver)
- 3rd **Hodder** (Bronze)
- 4th **Douglas** (Bronze)



Learn to succeed



Drama Pupils Begin 'Scratching The Surface' of Next School Production

Priory's next play will be an educational performance in a bid to help people talk about the sensitive subject of self-harming.

Lead Teacher of Drama Miss Howell has overseen the more light-hearted musical shows at Priory of 'Legally Blonde', 'Matilda' and 'Mary Poppins' over the years. However, there was also a performance of 'Game Over' in 2022, which explored the dangers of cyber-bullying.

'Scratching the Surface' by Mark Wheeler covers the subject of self-harming and how it affects not only the person doing it but their family and friends.

Miss Howell said: "Drama should be used for educating people as well as entertaining. We do not like to talk about certain subjects, they are taboo, such as mental health issues and especially self-harming but it's important to talk about it.

"If we talk about it, people who self-harm may realise they are not on their own and that they can ask for help. We want to raise awareness and create a safe space to talk and break down the stigma of talking about mental health."



Year 11 Alex plays the author Mark who interviews Rob, played by Caleb, who as a teenager self-harmed.

Alex said: "I am not a big fan of musicals but playing this part was right up my street. I played a part in 'Game Over' too.

"I am Mark who interviews Rob about self-harming and his experiences with it."

Year 9 Caleb, who plays Rob, said: "I talk about self-harming, it is quite emotional and powerful."

Year 10 Ella plays Louise: "I am Rob's mum and I talk about it from a mum's perspective, about how it affects the family. It got me thinking about how self-harming affects other people."

Year 7 Ted's character is Ollie: "I am Rob's brother and I talk about how Rob's self-harming affected me."

There is also Year 7 Maci who is Girl 3. "This is very different to Legally Blonde which I was involved in but I think it has an important message."

Connie is Girl 2: "I talk about my version of self-harming and how I hide it. To me it shows how everything on the outside may not be what it seems. You never know what is going on."

Inter-House Competition | Calder | Douglas | Hodder | Ribble



Pupils are having a laugh at Comic Relief bake off

Bake Sale & House Competition

Across Wednesday and Thursday this week, the House Leaders organised a 'Bake Off' competition to support Comic Relief.

The challenge was to impress the judges with your baking skills whilst raising money for Comic Relief with the bake sale that followed.

Credit goes to the following pupils for their wonderful bakes: Alfie C (Year 8), Agnes K (Year 10), Evie C (Year 9), Seth L (Year 9), Emma N (Year 9), Emma H (Year 10), Victoria C-C (Year 9). *(If we have missed anyone, please see Mr Raynor)*

We managed to raise over £50 over the two days, which is a wonderful amount that will be sent off to Comic Relief to help them with their mission to tackle poverty, conflict and climate change in the UK and worldwide.

Summing up the event, Technology teacher Mrs Lockwood said, "Whilst not a judge, my highlights are Year 10 Emma H's Hungarian Honey Cake and Year 9 Victoria-C-C funny face cakes." Later, Mr Raynor agreed and both girls are our winners - prizes on their way!



Learn to succeed

Year 9 Pupil Hosts Event to Support SEN Education



We have featured Year 9 Yaseen in our newsletter previously as he loves trainspotting and is so enthusiastic about it.

Yaseen is also excited about a club he attends three nights a week - an SEN Islamic education establishment, based at Frenchwood Community Primary School.

His mum says: "Yaseen is taught in a wonderful fun environment and gets individual attention. He has learnt to read the 'Quran' in Arabic and has made good friends."

On 1 March, Yaseen co-hosted an event to raise awareness of the SEN Islamic group at the Imperial Hall in Preston which was attended by the Mayor of Preston and NHS representatives. He introduced each guest speaker and spoke briefly about the establishment as it has grown significantly and needs a bigger venue.

"I enjoy going to the group on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings as I have developed a lot of new skills," he said. "We attended the event in Preston to talk about our group as we need a bigger building and more staff and it has been well received."



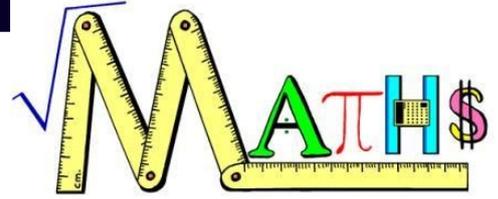
Would you like to tell us about your child's achievements whether it's in sport, charity events, public speaking, drama, environmental issues, maths challenges or anything else? Maybe even someone who has overcome adversity and doesn't mind talking about it? (we like those stories!)

If this is you, please get in touch with your son/daughter's form tutor / head of year or contact the Communications Manager, Mrs Yates, via email at:

j.yates@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Learn to succeed

Runshaw College Maths Challenge - We Won!



Congratulations to Priory's Team 1 who solved the ultimate maths puzzle in the Runshaw College 2024 Maths Challenge.

Last Thursday evening, thirteen schools from across the North West competed for the ultimate title of 'Runshaw Maths Challenge Champions 2024'. This is an annual and prestigious event intended to inspire and challenge able mathematicians by working through problem solving activities.

Priory entered two teams, with the second group of four pupils coming in a respectable 9th place out of the twenty taking part.

A spokesperson from the college said, "After multiple rounds of challenging problems and solving questions, the title went to Team 1 from Penwortham Priory, with Team 1 from Albany Academy coming in second place and Team 1 from St Michael's CE High School in Chorley coming in third place.

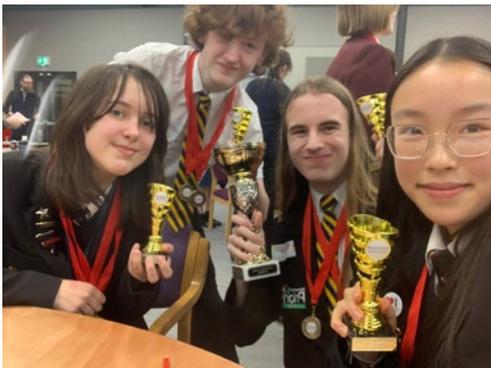
"It was lovely to see so many budding mathematicians - well done to everyone who came and took part."



Maths teacher, Mr Hunter, who accompanied the Priory contingent added, "There were three rounds with some really difficult maths questions. Out of the twenty teams in total, they managed to beat nineteen other teams; that's the 76 best mathematicians from other schools!"

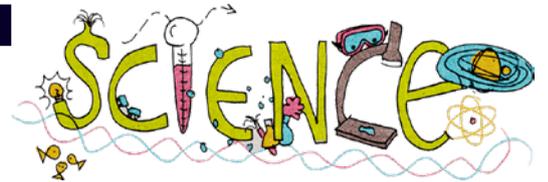
Congratulations to - Year 11: Samuel D, Preston McM, Ryan H and Isaac S. Year 10: Niamh P, Jake L, Emily P and Agnes K.

Mr Hunter
Maths Teacher &
House Leader (Hodder)

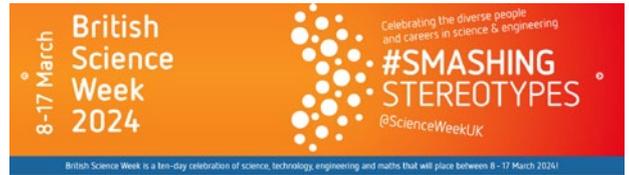


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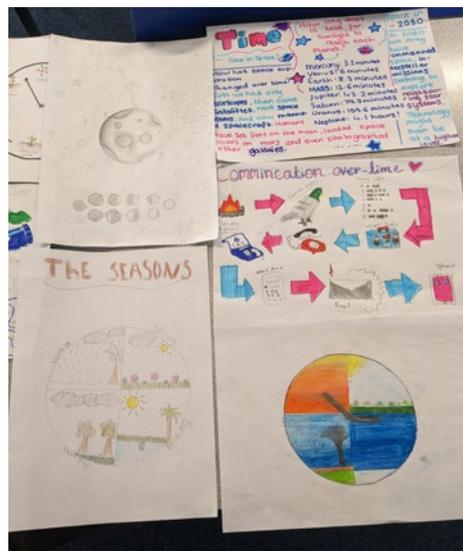
British Science Week Poster Design Competition



As part of British Science Week, our pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 have taken part in a national poster design competition. The theme this year was 'time'.

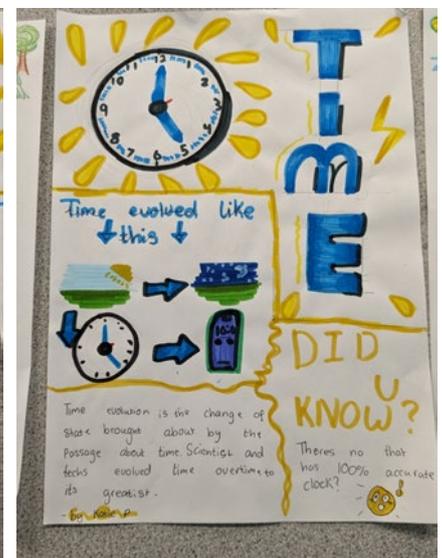
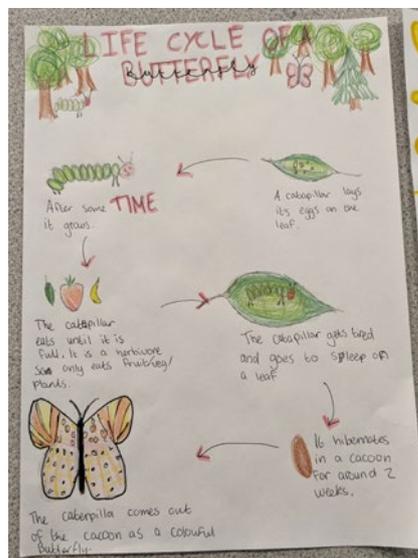


Competition rules set by the organisers of British Science Week stipulate that schools can submit up to five posters. After much deliberation in the Science department, the five pupils who will have their work forwarded to the national competition are: Maya L (Year 8), Katie P (Year 7), Jessica T (Year 7), Molly T (Year 8) and Ruth W (Year 8).



The overall winner in school was Year 7 Jessica T who based her design around the hourglass. From over a hundred entries that came in, can you see your picture here?

Katie and Jessica posed for a photo along with their prizes.



Learn to succeed

Year 9 Pupil Explores for Scouting Gold



Year 9 pupil Kacper has received glowing reports after achieving his Gold Scout Chief award.

Kacper has been a member of Preston Central Scout Group for 10 years.

He had to complete various challenges to reach gold status and was promoted to Explorer/Young Leader.

These challenges included a ten-hour hike, learning about culture and heritage, learning First Aid, cooking in the wild and more.

Kacper said: "I enjoyed completing the activities, especially kayaking. Gold is the highest you can achieve and it will also be helpful on my CV.

"I have moved to Young Leader now so I am instructing younger children. I have learned skills for life."



Preston Central Scout's Lojska said: "Kacper's journey from a dedicated scout to an exemplary Young Leader is inspiring. His unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to learn have left a lasting impression on the scout group.

"As a scout, Kacper embodied the core values of scouting, displaying dedication, teamwork and personal growth.

"Kacper achieved the highest award in the scout section, the Chief Scout Gold Award.

"This involved earning nine challenge badges, including planning and executing a two-day expedition, honing his camp craft and demonstrating team work.

"Once Kacper left the scout section, he became a Young Leader. Kacper confidently assumed various leadership roles, guiding and motivating younger scouts and cubs.

"His ability to lead by example and tackle challenges head-on has set him apart as a role model for his peers."

Jordan, from Preston Central Scouts, added: "Kacper has been fantastic since joining us as a Young Leader in Cubs last year. He has jumped right in, helping us every week, leading games and activities and supporting us on weekend events such as camps."

Learn to succeed

Year 9 Pupil Inspired By Friend To Self-Teach Music



Year 9 Maisie has been praised for her ‘passion, commitment and progress’ by Music Teacher, Mr Taylor.



Maisie has taught herself the keyboards and has asked Mr Taylor for more tunes to play as she admits she just loves learning them.

“I saw my friend Ben playing the piano in Year 7 and that inspired me, it was a ‘Wow’ moment,” said Maisie.

“I have a keyboard at home and I asked Mr Taylor to give me with some songs to learn as I can read music.

“I enjoy playing ‘All Of Me’ and ‘Just The Way You Are.’

“I don’t really want to have lessons as I just like doing it in my own time and I don’t want to play in public as I think I would get too anxious and mess up so this is just about me enjoying it and hopefully progressing. I just want to get better.

“I have asked Mr Taylor for more songs to play and he has given me ‘Eastenders’ ‘The Simpson’s’ and ‘Teletubbies’ theme tunes to learn.

“I want to take my music further and I also enjoy drama and art.”



The Piano at Priory

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a piano in the Auditorio for pupils to play at break and lunchtimes very much in the style of those in public places such as Liverpool 1, St. Pancras and Manchester Piccadilly stations. Not sure what we mean? Take a look at this clip...

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nBNHSON7N1s&pp=ygUSUGlhbmlzdCBTdCBQYW5jcmFz>

Pupils should be mindful of others enjoying their break and therefore the piano must be used considerately for tuneful practice.



Mr Taylor
Lead Teacher of Music

Just sit down and play!

Learn to succeed

Pupils Take on Dungeons & Dragons After School



Priory's Dungeons and Dragons Club takes pupils on epic journeys which fire their imagination!

The D&D Club, which is after-school every Tuesday, was started by Year 11 Alex and he wasn't expecting a big turnout.

However it is 'absolutely thriving' said one teacher so much so that when Alex leaves, he is handing over the reigns to Year 8 Jacob to take control and ensure this popular club continues.

"I started it last year, after February half-term, as the club where I played D&D shut down," said Alex, who will go to Newman College to do A-Levels next year. "I still wanted to play so I started it at school expecting around six people but we have over 20 now.



"Dungeons and Dragons is basically where there are players and a Dungeon Master. The Dungeon Master provides a story and the players make their own fantasy characters, using maybe magic or weapons, and act out the story. It's very creative."

Jacob will take over and said: "I am very excited. I was into D&D but had no one to play with so it's great to have a club here and play with other people. I am keen to keep the club going. It's a bit of fun and is also quite relaxing."

The club is supervised by Learning Manager, Mrs Nayler who said: "It's been very popular and pupils learn skills which they will not only need in school but also in life such as vocabulary building, problem solving, team work, communication, story telling and imagination growth."

The club welcomes all year groups and takes place in LEAP 1 every Tuesday until 4pm.



Learn to succeed



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